AMENDED CLAIM SET

The claims have been amended as set forth in the following listing of the claims:

1. (currently amended) A valve system for an internal combustion engine, comprising:

an intake-side rocker shaft;

an exhaust-side rocker shaft;

intake-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to intake valves and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said intake-side rocker arms rock, the intake-side rocker arms being driven by an intake cam; ~~and~~

exhaust-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to exhaust valves and supported on said exhaust-side rocker shaft such that said exhaust-side rocker arms rock, the exhaust-side rocker arms being driven by an exhaust cam; and ~~,~~

a switching mechanism switching operating characteristics of the intake cam,

wherein the intake-side rocker shaft ~~one of said rocker shafts which requires to have a higher stiffness~~ has a larger diameter than the exhaust-side rocker shaft ~~to prevent said one of the rocker shafts from at least one of curving and twisting due to external force incurred to one of said intake-side rocker arms and said exhaust-side rocker arms~~.

2. (currently amended) A valve system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein said intake-side rocker arms include~~includes~~,

a first rocker arm having an end thereof connected to the intake valve and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said first rocker arm rocks, the first rocker arm being driven by a first low-lift cam,

a second rocker arm having an end thereof connectable to said first rocker arm and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said second rocker arm rocks, the second rocker arm being driven by a high-lift cam causing a larger valve lift than the first low-lift cam, and

a connection switching mechanism that selectively connects or disconnects said second rocker arm to or from said first rocker arm~~,~~

~~wherein said intake-side rocker shaft has a larger diameter than a diameter of said exhaust-side rocker shaft~~.

3. (currently amended) A valve system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein,

said intake valves include ~~includes~~ a first intake valve and a second intake valve, and

said intake-side rocker arms include~~includes~~,

a first rocker arm having an end thereof connected to said first intake valve and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said first rocker arm rocks, the first rocker arm being driven by a first low-lift cam,

a third rocker arm having an end thereof connected to said second intake valve and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said third rocker arm rocks, the third rocker arm being driven by a second low-lift cam that causes a smaller valve lift than the first low-lift cam,

a second rocker arm having an end thereof connectable to said first rocker arm and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said second rocker arm rocks, the second rocker arm being driven by a high-lift cam that causes a larger valve lift than the first low-lift cam, and

a connection switching mechanism that selectively connects or disconnects said second rocker arm to or from said first rocker arm and said third rocker arm~~,~~

~~wherein said intake-side rocker shaft has a larger diameter than a diameter of said exhaust-side rocker shaft~~.

4. (currently amended) A valve system for an internal combustion engine according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein said intake-side rocker arms include ~~includes~~ center-pivot type rocker arms with middle parts thereof pivoted by said intake side rocker shaft.

5. (original) A valve system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 4, wherein said intake-side rocker arms and said exhaust-side rocker arms are driven by a single cam shaft disposed between said intake-side rocker shaft and said exhaust-side rocker shaft.

6. (previously presented)A valve system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 3, wherein the first rocker arm has a first roller follower provided with a double-ring type sliding roller that makes contact with the first low-lift cam.

7. (previously presented)A valve system for an internal combustion engine according to claim 3, wherein the first rocker arm has a first roller follower provided with a double-ring type sliding roller that makes contact with the first low-lift cam, and the third rocker arm has second roller follower provided with a needle bearing that makes contact with the second low-lift cam.

8. (currently amended) A valve system for an internal combustion engine, comprising:

an intake-side rocker shaft having a first oil channel extending in a longitudinal direction thereof;

an exhaust-side rocker shaft having a second oil channel extending in a longitudinal direction thereof;

intake-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to intake valves and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said intake-side rocker arms rock, the intake-side rocker arms being driven by an intake cam;~~ and~~

exhaust-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to exhaust valves and supported on said exhaust-side rocker shaft such that said exhaust-side rocker arms rock, the exhaust-side rocker arms being driven by an exhaust cam; and ~~,~~

a switching mechanism switching operating characteristics of the intake cam,

wherein the intake-side rocker shaft ~~one of said rocker shafts which requires to have a higher stiffness~~ has a larger diameter than the exhaust-side rocker shaft~~and has an oil channel having a larger diameter~~.

9. (new) A valve system for an internal combustion engine, comprising:

an intake-side rocker shaft;

an exhaust-side rocker shaft;

intake-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to intake valves and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft, such that said intake-side rocker arms rock, the intake-side rocker arms being driven by an intake cam;

exhaust-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to exhaust valves and supported on said exhaust-side rocker shaft, such that said exhaust-side rocker arms rock, the exhaust-side rocker arms being driven by an exhaust cam; and

a switching mechanism switching operating characteristics of the exhaust cam,

wherein the exhaust-side rocker shaft has a larger diameter than the intake-side rocker shaft.